GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:651
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2003
LINUX SYSTEM
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

:-

(a) whether the Government had called a meeting of the I.T. Professionals to discuss the ways for propagating Linux system;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the reaction of the IT. professionals thereto; and

(c) the manner in which the Linux system is proposed to be propagated?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DISINVESTMENT (ARUN SHOURIE)

(a),(b) and (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A meeting was held on 23rd December 2002 at Department of Information Technology, Government of India to discuss relevance and opportunities for Open Source / Free Software , more specially GNU / Linux in the Indian context.

Specific steps such as setting up of Resource Centre(s),Special Interest Groups, suitable provision i n procurement policy of Government / Government Institutions , localization , R&D, inclusion of these in the Curricula / Labs of educational institutions specially Engineering Colleges etc. were discussed to arrive at a consensual action plan. The relevance of Department of IT initiating these steps under a program entitled Linux India Initiative in the context of the above was also discussed.

Participants included a representative sample from IT industry (Indian a n d MNCs),academia, R & D labs, Central a n d State Governments, developer community / NGOs. They were desirous of pursuing this initiative.

(c) Based on the deliberations of the meeting and follow-up inputs from participants, a proposal for Linux India Initiative was submitted to Planning Commission for budgetary support during 2003-2004 and was submitted as part of DIT`s Annual Plan for 2003-2004. The DIT maintains a stance of strict technology neutrality, platform neutrality and vendor neutrality. It has therefore not prescribed preferential treatment of one over the other. DIT believes that both proprietary and open source software have a large space in the marketplace and the choice must be exercised by each user.